

18 includes completely melting the plurality of metal powders in a single reflow step. These claims are allowable as depending from claim 16, 17, or 18, which are allowable for the reasons given in the response filed on September 10, 2002.

In the Paruchuri reference cited in the most recent Official Action, only a single metal powder is melted, so it does not disclose or suggest any melting of a plurality of metal powders, let alone complete melting. In the Kazem-Goudarzi reference cited in the most recent Official Action, a plurality of metal powders are employed, but they are melted in separate reflow operations, with resolidification of the melted material taking place between the reflow operations. Melting of a plurality of metal powders in a single reflow step is not disclosed or suggested and in fact must not take place in order for the method of Kazem-Goudarzi to function as intended.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Sep 19, 2002